

Starmer acknowledges local election losses but stays firm



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London: Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has acknowledged that Labour's performance in

England's local elections was "tough" and said the results hurt, but insisted he remains committed

to delivering promised change.

Labour suffered major losses, losing hundreds of council seats across England as counting continued in Scotland and Wales.

Reform UK emerged as the biggest winner, gaining hundreds of seats and taking control of several councils in traditional Labour and Conservative areas.

The Green Party also made gains, winning councillors and securing the Hackney mayoralty in London, while the Liberal Democrats recorded modest progress.

In Scotland, the SNP expects to remain the largest party, while in Wales Labour faces the possibility of losing control of the Senedd after 27 years.

Early reports also suggest Welsh First Minister Eluned Morgan could lose her seat, intensifying scrutiny of Labour's leadership.

Senior Labour figures defended Starmer, warning against a leadership change and urging patience despite growing internal criticism.

Defence Secretary John Healey said the Prime Minister could still recover the situation, while others cautioned against a knee-jerk reaction.

Some MPs have privately raised concerns, and speculation continues over possible future leadership challenges within the party.

Sir Keir said he would not step down, insisting he will not "plunge the country into chaos", as

Labour prepares for further political pressure in the coming days.

Counting is ongoing in several regions, with final outcomes expected to shape internal party debate.

The results have triggered wider national discussion on voter sentiment and party direction across the UK.